REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 22- 32 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 22-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Matoba (U.S. Patent No. 5,611,069). These rejections are traversed as follows.

In response to Applicants' previously filed arguments, the Examiner states on page 9 of the Office Action that data reading and writing operations are executed in parallel for ports P0 to P3 for every rank of the disk array of Matoba. The Examiner then points to column 17, lines 36-55 of Matoba, which states that the disks operate as mirror disk units. The Examiner then apparently concludes that since the data writing operations are executed in parallel, that the same data is written to at least two disks and therefore mirroring of data occurs. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As in a typical RAID configuration, data is written to the disks in a striped manner. The Examiner's attention is directed to Matoba at column 3, lines 7-12, column 5, lines 63 to column 6, line 1 and column 6, lines 14-18, for example (see also Figs. 13, 14 and 17). In addition, as clearly stated at column 2, lines 10-12, data is striped (divided) and the striped data is read out or written from/into disk units

Appl. No. 10/775,702
Preliminary Amendment dated April 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 30, 2006

NIT-5094

in parallel. Therefore, it should be clear that the term "parallel" does not mean that the same data is written into multiple disks.
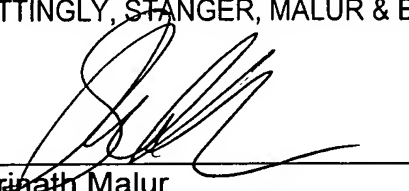
Furthermore, on page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner interprets Matoba's disks P0 through P3 to be the claimed "first type disks" or "second type disks" and interprets Matoba's disk P4 to be the "another one of the first type disks". It is respectfully submitted that this interpretation is incorrect. Accordingly to the presently claimed invention, data is mirrored between one of the first type disks and the at least one second type disk. However, in Matoba, there is no mirroring taking place among disks P0 through P3. As mentioned above, data is striped when written to disks P0 through P3.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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3